



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund Grant**
Tracking code: #2001-0045

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Illicit Connection Elimination (IDEP) in Clinton Township

April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2004

The goal of this project was to test, identify and eliminate Illicit Connections in the publicly owned storm drainage system in an area encompassing approximately 2 square miles in sections 33, 34 & 35 (between 14 and 15 Mile Roads and Beaconsfield Road and I -94) in Clinton Township. Land use in the proposed project area is approximately 67% residential, 18% commercial and 15% industrial.

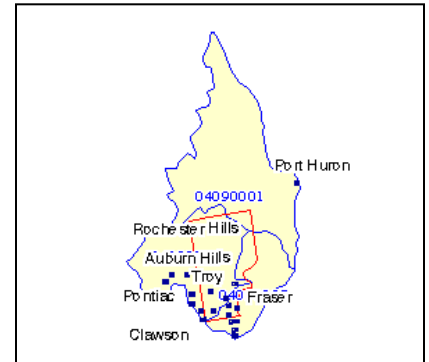


**Grant Amount: \$ 37,500
Match Funds: \$ 12,500**

Total Amount: \$ 50,000

Partners involved:

- Macomb County Public Works Office
- Macomb County Health Department
- Lake Superior State University



Description of Site & involved water quality impairment:

Very early in the field investigation process we contacted the Macomb County Public Works Office (MCPWO) to help us find hot spots in the general areas from their testing. This allowed us to focus on known problem areas within our grant district. We then proceeded to test and move up stream further into the district. Once we pin pointed a more specific area, we worked with the Macomb County Health Department who performed dye testing in individual homes. This testing detected the exact point source. It is also important to note, the MCPWO helped us train our field investigation team on proper testing techniques in the field and laboratory. This insured we all used the same testing processes; therefore, we would be able to share and utilize each others test results. Approximately six miles of storm sewers and/or open ditches were investigated and approximately 90 water samples were taken and analyzed over the summer of 2003.

Best Management Practices:

Managerial:



- Coordination of MCPWO identified hot spots for testing.
- Township personnel identified point source.
- Coordination of training of staff with MCHD in proper sample testing procedures.
- Coordination of remediation of identified point sources.

Annual Load Reductions:

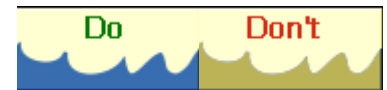
This project helped reduce e-coli bacteria, ammonia and surfactants in surrounding surface waters.

Project Accomplishments:

90 water samples were taken and analyzed over the summer. From these samples five areas were identified with elevated results. These areas were referred to the MCHD who performed follow up investigations and dye testing. A majority of the septic systems in these areas have been corrected.

Illicit Discharge Interactive Demonstration

Click one of the buttons below to view an interactive illicit discharge demonstration.



(Opens in a new window)

Brief Description of corrective activities:

From these samples, five areas were identified with elevated test results. These areas were then referred to the Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) who performed follow up investigations and dye testing. An obstacle we had to overcome included residents not allowing the MCHD access to their homes to perform dye testing. The MCHD was able to eliminate the pollution problem at a majority of these homes. The MCHD is still working to eliminate the remainder of the sites. Since a majority of these illicit connections were found and eliminated, the project was a huge success. We recognize that just because we eliminated several connections in the area, new connections can always occur and people's behavior can change as well. This is a continuous monitoring project. As part of our Phase II permit, we will continue to work with the MCPWO and MCHD to monitor this area and other parts of the Township.